

Trustee Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2009

The January meeting of the Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009.

In attendance were: Gilbert Tremblay, Chairman; Kathleen Reynolds Daigneault; Nancy Hicks; Carol Millette; Jeanne Zephir; Head of Adult Services Edward Bergman and Assistant Director Meredith Foley.

Absent: Robert Salvatore and Library Director Susan Theriault Shelton. Mrs. Shelton was unable to attend due to illness.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. (JZ/NH)

OLD BUSINESS:

Library Expansion and Renovation Project Update:

- The Building Committee has not met since October 2008
- Mark Bodanza, Chairman of the Building Committee, continues to work with Kopelman & Paige and Beacon Architectural Associates on the settlement agreement.
- Remediation to walkways and ramps has been slated to be done in Spring 2009
- ANR (Approval Not Required) for the 69 square foot land donation from Joseph Fraticelli, Jr. was signed by the Leominster Planning Board on January 6, 2009
- City Council is scheduled to vote on the land donation from Joseph Fraticelli, Jr. and easement granted to Joseph Fraticelli, Jr. at this evening's meeting.
- Capeway Roofing repaired the failure in a portion of the roofing seam causing a leak in the second floor quiet study area on January 5, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Foley distributed copies of the timeline for loaning to Fitchburg residents in light of their library's recent decertification, the Leominster Public Library's Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Policy, and an up-to-date list of libraries prohibiting circulation to residents of communities with decertified libraries. She informed the Board of Trustees that waiver applications were presented to the MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) on January 6th. The MBLC will act on the waiver petitions at their February 5, 2009 meeting. Boylston and Hubbardston were among the local libraries that have requested waivers. The Fitchburg Public Library was immediately decertified on January 1, 2009, because they did not submit any state aid information or apply for a waiver.

Mrs. Shelton and Groton Library Director Owen Shuman are contacting libraries who have policies not to loan to residents of communities with decertified libraries to see if they would like to be included in a press release to go out the end of this month.

Edward Bergman explained that Fitchburg patrons requesting items online from libraries who will lend to patrons of communities with decertified libraries and who have

selected Leominster as the pick-up location for these items, will only be able to do so through February 1st. As of Monday, February 2nd, items will be returned to the loaning library. It was noted that the Leominster Public Library has been notifying Fitchburg residents of this change for the past month.

Mrs. Foley also relayed the content of an email that Mrs. Shelton received from Mayor Mazzarella sent by a Fitchburg resident earlier this month, urging the local communities to try to work together to serve Fitchburg patrons.

After a brief discussion, **a motion was made and unanimously approved to direct Library Director Susan Shelton to draft a letter to be signed by Gilbert Tremblay, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, which will be sent to all Massachusetts decertified library directors and city officials, informing them of our Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges Policy approved on July 14, 2008.** (CM/JZ)

Mrs. Foley distributed copies of the Quarterly Library Usage Report. There was a question regarding the decrease in programs and attendance, and whether email overdue notices are included in the total of Notices & Bills. Mrs. Foley indicated that Mrs. Shelton will address these issues.

There was a brief discussion of the library's role in an emergency such as the recent ice storm. Fortunately the library was only without power for two days. It was noted that, as a result of the storm, many people were coming to the library specifically for Internet access. Many patrons noted that without power at home, they were not able to pay their bills. A brief discussion also ensued regarding Fitchburg's use of their library as an animal shelter during the power outage.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the library's historic conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith A. Foley
Recording Secretary